

REMARKS

Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on the grounds of anticipation by Gakkaishi (author Hidetsugu, et al.) which was cited as teaching a composition comprising sodium chlorate, 20-60% iron, diatomaceous earth (binder), sodium perborate (oxygen generating compound) and strontium peroxide. Claim 20 recites "strontium peroxide as a sole catalyst and as a sole chlorine remover and reaction rate modifier for the oxygen generating composition." At lines 8-10 of Gakkaishi it is disclosed that iron oxide is a catalyst in the composition of Gakkaishi, so that Gakkaishi does not teach, disclose or suggest an oxygen generating composition with strontium peroxide as a sole catalyst, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 20-22 are novel and inventive over Gakkaishi, and that the rejection of Claims 20-22 on the grounds of anticipation from Gakkaishi should be withdrawn.

Claims 20-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Zhang '105. The Examiner argued that it would have been obvious from Zhang '105 to have used iron as a metal fuel because Zhang '105 teaches that iron is a known metal fuel that has been combined with the remaining claimed additives to produce an oxygen generating composition. It is respectfully submitted that Zhang '105 does not teach that iron has been combined with the remaining claimed additives. At column 1, lines 9-58, Zhang '105 teaches that iron powder has commonly been used in chlorate or perchlorate compositions as a fuel or catalyst, but that iron should not be used with alkali metal chlorate or perchlorate compositions due to contamination of the iron which produces carbon monoxide. Zhang '105 does not teach any oxygen generating


compositions including iron powder as the fuel and strontium peroxide as the sole catalyst, as is recited in Claims 20, 24 and 27.

The Examiner argued that the claims do not require "iron metal." However, the claims recite "iron powder," and it is well known that iron is a metal. In chemical nomenclature, use of the term "iron" without modifiers is commonly understood to mean the element "iron" and it is well known that iron in its elemental form has the properties of a metal, so that it is believed that the terms "iron" and "iron metal" do not have a different meaning. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 20-29 are novel and inventive over Zhang '105, and that the rejection of Claims 20-29 on the grounds of obviousness from Zhang '105 should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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